

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 NEA-10 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 AID-20

CEA-02 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 CIEP-02 STR-08 LAB-06

SIL-01 OMB-01 SCEM-02 INT-08 SCI-06 DRC-01 AGR-20

/237 W

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R 040853Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6062

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 14148

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, UK, GW

SUBJECT: SCHEEL'S VISIT TO LONDON, NOV. 22 & 23

REF: BONN 17158

1. SUMMARY: BRITISH ACCOUNT OF SCHEEL VISIT TO LONDON
COMPLEMENTS GERMAN ACCOUNT (REFTEL) BUT DIFFERS
SLIGHTLY IN EMPHASIS. END SUMMARY

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2. KEN JAMES, HEAD OF WESTERN EUROPEAN DEPT., FCO,

BRIEFED US NOVEMBER 30 ON SCHEEL VISIT TO LONDON. HE STRESSED THAT HMG WAS KEEN TO ACCORD SCHEEL FULL RED CARPET TREATMENT (DUKE AND DUCHESS OF KENT AND ARCH-BISHOP OF CANTERBURY WERE TROTTED OUT TO MEET HIM) AND THAT DESPITE LATENESS OF HIS ARRIVAL, VISIT WENT OFF EXTREMELY WELL. ON SUBSTANTIVE SIDE, HE SAID, TALKS WITH SIR ALEC AND JOHN DAVIS CONCENTRATED ON MIDDLE EAST, OIL, AND FUTURE OF EC, "PLUS SOME MENTION OF TRANS-ATLANTIC RELATIONS." HE DID NOT ALLUDE TO DISCUSSION OF EUROPEAN DEFENSE COOPERATION UNTIL EMBOFF QUERIED HIM DIRECTLY.

3. MIDDLE EAST - SIR ALEC AND SCHEEL AGREED ON THE NEED TO PERSUADE ARABS TO TREAT EC AS A WHOLE AND TO RECOGNIZE THE EC'S VALUE IN PEACEMAKING. HOPE WAS EXPRESSED THAT THE ARABS MIGHT REALIZE THEY HAD GONE TOO FAR. FEISAL WAS THE KEY TO THE WHOLE PROBLEM. BOTH SIDES ALSO AGREED THAT THERE WAS NO ALTERNATIVE TO THE POLICY PROPOUNDED BY THE EC, AND THAT ISRAEL WOULD HAVE TO ACCEPT GUARANTEES OF SOME KIND, I.E. THAT IT COULD NOT GO BACK TO RELYING EXCLUSIVELY ON ITS OWN STRENGTH TO MAINTAIN ITS SECURITY.

4. OIL - BOTH SIDES AGREED ON THE NEED FOR EC TO DEVELOP A COMMON ENERGY POLICY URGENTLY, BUT AGREED TOO THAT DECISIONS ON SUCH A POLICY SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN TOO MUCH UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE IMMEDIATE CRISIS. MEASURES TO COPE WITH THE SHORT-TIME SUPPLY POSITION SHOULD BE DISTINGUISHED FROM LONG-TERM POLICY DECISIONS.

5. EC - MAIN POINT DAVIES MADE TO SCHEEL WAS THAT REGIONAL POLICY FUND SHOULD BE LARGE AND CRITERIA FOR ITS ALLOCATION SHOULD NOT BE BIASED IN FAVOR OF AGRICULTURAL AREAS. SCHEEL SOFTLY HINTED AT GERMAN PREFERENCE FOR SOMEWHAT SMALLER FUND AND MORE STRINGENT DEFINITION OF CRITERIA. THERE WAS BROAD AGREEMENT ON SOCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL POLICY. THE GERMANS ENJOY BRITISH SUPPORT FOR THEIR PROPOSALS TO EXTEND EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S COMPETENCE IN BUDGETARY

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MATTERS AND TO INTRODUCE MORE STRINGENT AUDITING OF BUDGET.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 14148

6. EUROPEAN DEFENSE COOPERATION - WHEN QUESTIONED ABOUT THIS, JAMES SAID THAT ISSUE HAD BEEN DISCUSSED ONLY IN BROAD POLITICAL TERMS. BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT WEU WAS NOT A SUITABLE VEHICLE, AND THAT FRENCH WOULD HAVE TO BE "BROUGHT ALONG." WHEN EMBOFF THEN ASKED WHETHER HEATH AND POMPIDOU HAD DISCUSSED THIS SUBJECT AT THEIR RECENT MEETING, JAMES FLATLY DENIED IT.

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7. COMMENT: JAMES' APPARENT RELUCTANCE TO DISCUSS EUROPEAN DEFENSE ASPECTS OF SCHEEL'S TALKS REFLECTS MORE GENERAL BRITISH NEURALGIA ON ENTIRE ISSUE. THEY ARE CERTAINLY TAKING A HARD LOOK THESE DAYS AT WHETHER AND HOW EC, AS IT DEVELOPS POLITICAL UNITY, MAY EVENTUALLY HAVE TO ASSUME A DEFENSE ROLE AS WELL, AND THEY ARE CAUTIOUSLY SOUNDING OUT VIEWS OF KEY EUROPEAN PARTNERS. AT SAME TIME THEY ARE ANXIOUS US NOT OVER-RATE IMPORTANCE OF THIS EXERCISE, PARTIALLY BECAUSE IT IS ONLY INITIAL TENTATIVE PROBING OF A COMPLEX, LONG-RANGE PROBLEM, AND PARTIALLY BECAUSE THEY WOULD NOT WANT, HOWEVER INADVERTENTLY, TO ENCOURAGE SPECULATION THAT US CAN SAFELY REDUCE ITS OWN COMMITMENT TO EUROPEAN DEFENSE.

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